

# Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District



# Our History

# Our Beginnings . . .

- **1935** Congress declares soil and water conservation a national policy and priority
  - **1937** President Roosevelt recommends to each state the legislation leading to state conservation programs
  - **1940** Kentucky passes KRS 262 allowing landowners to create conservation districts in their counties
  - **1941** Kentucky's first conservation district in South Logan County
- 121** Conservation Districts currently across the Commonwealth, organized along county lines---with the exception of Logan County which includes the North Logan and South Logan districts

# What Is a Conservation District?

- Subdivision of state government
- Governed by a 7-member board of supervisors who are elected by the registered voters within the district
- Assumes the lead role in their county in promoting the conservation and wise use of their soil, water and other natural resources

[www.lrc.ky.gov/KRS/262-00/CHAPTER.HTM](http://www.lrc.ky.gov/KRS/262-00/CHAPTER.HTM)



# What Is The Purpose of Conservation Districts?

The purpose of conservation districts - K.R.S. Chapter 262:

- To conserve and develop all renewable natural resources (land, water, trees, etc.)
- Coordinate (public and private, local, state and federal) assistance to landowners and users to address natural resource concerns

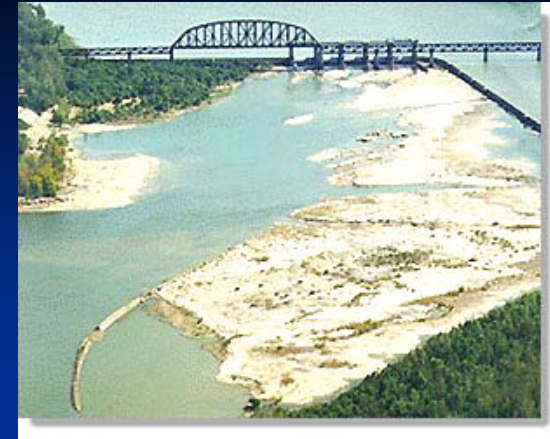


# From 1944 to 2010



For more than 66 years the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has provided land use assistance to private property owners, farmers, governmental agencies and the business community.

# Our Mission for Louisville Metro



To help reduce harmful land use impacts on  
land and water resources  
through effective leadership,  
technical assistance and outreach programs,  
in collaboration with government, business,  
and the public.

# Administration and Staff



# Your District Board

- Elected by registered voters in the county
- Serve without compensation
- Four year terms
- Monthly meetings open to the public
- Meetings held at 4229 Bardstown Road,  
Suite 117

# Board of Supervisors



**John H. Colliver**

**Chair**

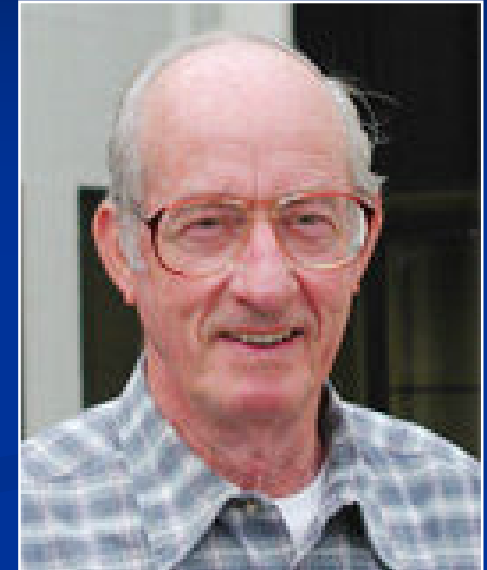
Member since July 1988.  
Owner of the JHC  
Insurance Agency



**Ray L. Adams, Sr.**

**Vice-Chair**

Member since January 2003.  
Former Field Rep. for Division  
of Conservation



**William H. Quick**

**Secretary-Treasurer**

Member since October 1980.  
Semi-retired from trade  
shows and exhibit set up  
company.

# Board of Supervisors



**Almerine Stout, Jr.**

Member since August 1988. Produces corn, wheat, soybeans and tobacco on farms in the eastern part of the county.



**E. Liddell Vaughn**

Appointed May 2009, to fill an unexpired term. Attorney with Walker, Vaughn and Wallace.



**Walter W. Wilson**

Member since January 1993. A retiree from General Electric.



**Earl R. Pierce**

Elected November 2008 with term beginning January 2009. A retired Industrial Arts teacher.

# District Advisor

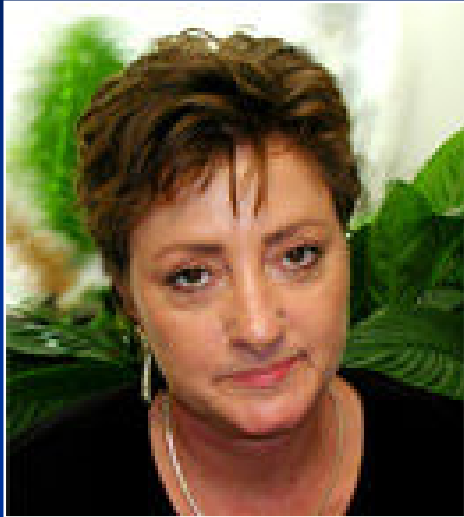


## **Ward G. Wilson**

A district board member since January 1997, past Board Chair, and now serves as Advisor to the Board. A professional engineer employed by the environmental consulting firm of Tetra Tech, Inc.



# District Staff



**Joy S. Edwards, District Administrator**

Responsible for Office Operations for the last 28 years



**Cheryl L. Bersaglia,  
Education Program Coordinator**

A Kentucky Certified Environmental Educator;  
responsible for developing and implementing public  
education programs throughout Louisville Metro for  
nearly 10 years

# Division of Conservation



## **Johnna McHugh, Field Representative**

Employed by the Kentucky Division of Conservation where she serves as supervisor to ten additional field representatives and is also responsible for providing daily assistance to eight soil and water conservation districts in north central Kentucky. As an advisor to the board she provides consultation on legislative, fiscal and other matters.

# Our Funding

# Operating Funds

## ■ Receipts

- 85% Louisville Metro
- 10% Ky. Division of Conservation (Not Guaranteed)
- 5% Grants—when available

## ■ Expenses

- 70% Staff
- 10% Operations
- 20% Program Delivery



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# Our Focus: To Inform. . .

# Information Clearinghouse

- Free publications concerning our natural resources from our “library”
- Education materials, curricula, equipment and other resource materials for distribution or on loan
- Provide assistance to the public and direct complaints
- Serve as part of the approval process for agricultural burn permits
- Promote Agriculture Water Quality Act and assist with Agriculture Water Quality Plans

# Community Outreach---

## Activities that Get Our Message Across

- *Newsletter circulation of over 5,900*
- Natural Solutions Watershed Management Workshop
- Beargrass Creek Cleanup and demo project
- Project XL Workshop
- Floyds Fork Watershed Roundtable
- Salt River Watershed Watch





# Better Ingredients, Better Soil, GREAT Water Quality

Adult education initiative to promote Best Management Practices for the reduction of polluted storm water runoff

- 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Turf and Landscape Short Course, UK and Jefferson County Extension Service
- Lawn /Garden Soil Care Workshop at Louisville Nature Center
- Women in Agriculture Field Day



# Booth, Displays and Exhibits



- Kentucky State Fair
- Deer Park Festival
- Women in Agriculture Field Day
- Kentucky Farm Bureau Farm Field Day
- Annual Legislative Wild Game Dinner
- Bernheim Forest Color Fest
- Earth Day at the Zoo



# Food Farming and Our Environment



All Day Professional  
Development Workshop for  
100 Teachers at a  
Local, Working Farm



# Locally and Statewide

## Kentucky Association for Environmental Education ----

- Annual presenter to teachers and other environmental educators at annual conference

## Kentucky Waterways Alliance---

- Displays, exhibits and presentations at various public functions



# Arbor Day Tree Giveaway



**District distributes  
approximately 3000 tree  
seedlings each year**

# Youth Fishing Derby



The District provided funds for stocking Watterson Lake with Bass and Catfish, and prizes for the fishing contest!

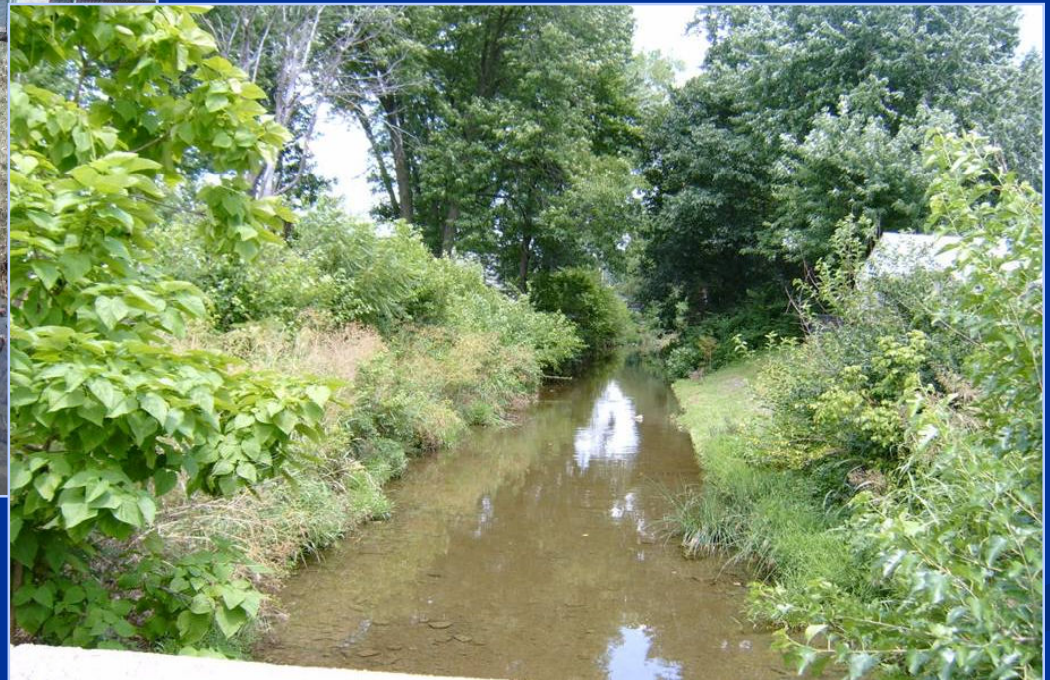


# Special Projects---Habitat Restoration

Funded by  
Toyota Tapestry Grant



2003



2008



... And to Educate

# Environmental Education

Over 16,000 persons participated in JCSWCD educational outreach programs last year.





# District Programs are Unique!



# Our Programs

- Soil Development
- Soil Ecosystems
- Erosion
- Water Cycle
- Stream Ecosystems
- Rocks and Fossils
- Life Cycles and Adaptations
- Groundwater and Karst
- Wetland, Pond and Stream Studies
- AND MORE.....

# All Grade Levels

- Local Schools
- Boy Scouts
- Girl Scouts
- Homeschool Groups
- Local Libraries
- County Extension Farm Field Day for Kids



# Programs All Year Long....

- 4-H Summer Camp
- Louisville Nature Center Day Camps
- Community Center Day Camps
- Church Day Camps
- FFA Summer Camp



# Biologist in Training at Beargrass Creek



Over 2800 adults and children  
have become Biologists in  
Training ---  
since the spring of 2007!



# Every Kid Outside with Jefferson Memorial Forest



At Our Local Parks. . .



# ...And at Red River Gorge





# Jim Claypool Art and Writing Contest



# Envirothon

2006 State Champions from  
Jefferson County competed at  
Canon Envirothon in Winnipeg  
Manitoba

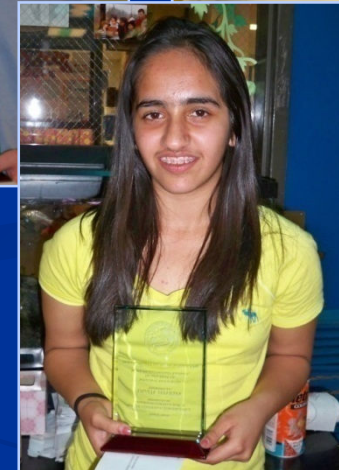


Jefferson County's 2010  
Envirothon Team placed 2<sup>nd</sup>  
at Regional's and will  
compete for the State  
Championship in May.



# Regional Science Fairs

District offers mentoring and equipment-on- loan for science students



Judging Local School Science Fairs and Regional Science Fairs and providing awards to top students

# Kentucky Forest Leadership Camp

- District has provided scholarships for two students from Jefferson County for the last 15 years



# Our USDA Connection



# Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA/NRCS)



**Kurt Mason,  
District Conservationist**

Serving Jefferson, Oldham, and  
Bullitt Counties

Acting District Conservationist  
for Henry and Trimble  
counties

# Memorandum Agreements

- United States Department of Agriculture---Secretary of Agriculture
- Natural Resources Conservation Service---State Conservationist
- Access to Other State and Federal Natural Resource Agencies through Existing Memorandums

# Technical Assistance Program 2009

- 1,100 people assisted
- 19 governmental units assisted (re-occurring)
- Development site reviews
- HUD sites reviewed for slope, stability & soil concerns
- 23 groups assisted with natural resource concerns
- Technical/workgroup meetings
- Project reviews & consultations

# USDA Farm Bill Conservation Programs in Jefferson County 2009

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program---  
16 contracts (\$204,000)
- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program---8 Contracts (\$83,000)
- Conservation Reserves Program---2 Contracts (\$12,000)
- Conservation Security Program---1 Applicant 2010
- Wetland Reserves Program---1 Applicant (pending)
- Grassland Reserves Program---2 Applicants (pending)
- Floodplain Easement Program ---2 Applicants (pending)
- Emergency Watershed Protection Program---2 Applicants 2009
- Farm & Ranchland Protection Easement Program---0 Applicants
- 2009 USDA Special Community Farm Bill Grants---\$280,000



# Water Quality Concerns







# Drainage Issues





# Sediment and Erosion Control



Jefferson County Conservation District





# Agriculture and Rural Concerns



Jefferson County Conservation District



# Urban Technical Assistance



# Local/State/Federal Partnership

- Kentucky Water Quality Cost Share Program---  
4 Contracts
- PACE Program---2 applications
- Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Planning
- Agricultural District Establishment
- Conservation Equipment Revolving Loan Program
- Open Agricultural Burning Application Review
- Agricultural Disaster Programs (State/Federal)



# Future Efforts

# Our Water Quality and the EPA Consent Decree

Conservation District fills a niche that  
MSD and other agencies cannot

- Not a regulatory agency
- Positive working relationship with community, its leaders, and local agencies
- Can work one-to-one and yard-to-yard with homeowners to improve stormwater quantity and quality

# To Improve Our Soil and Water Quality We Would Need. . .

## Full Time Soil and Water Technician to:

- Aid homeowners with water quality issues, yard by yard
- Promote and administer a homeowner Conservation Cost Share Program

## Additional Educator to:

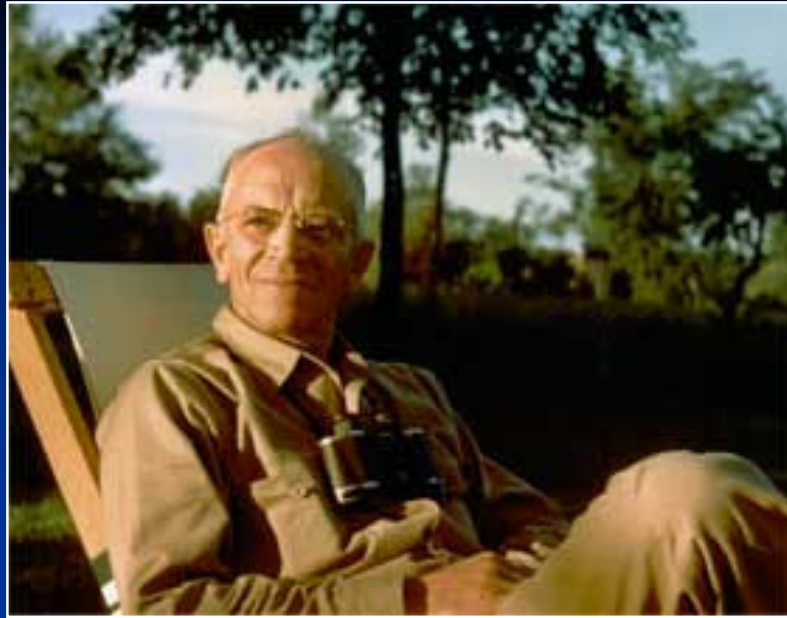
- Reach more schools in Jefferson County
- Provide more education opportunities in neighborhoods



# Partners--- Past and Present

- Louisville Metro Government
- USDA NRCS
- Ky. Divisions of Conservation, Water, Forestry, ...
- Jefferson County Farm Bureau
- Ky. Waterways Alliance
- Louisville MSD
- Toyota
- Alcoa
- Jefferson County Public Schools
- Cooperative Extension Service
- KY Dept of Fish & Wildlife
- Jefferson Memorial Forest
- Center for Neighborhoods
- Festival of Faiths
- Kentucky Farm Bureau
- Kentucky Solar Energy Society and the Louisville Solar Tour





“Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land.”

“We shall never achieve harmony with land, any more than we shall achieve absolute justice or liberty for people. In these higher aspirations, the important thing is not to achieve but to strive.”